



The Arc.ives

News from The Arc of Alameda County
Care and Caring Since 1950

March 4, 2009

The Arc of Alameda County
2700A Merced Street
San Leandro, CA 94577
www.arcalameda.org alameda.org

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Hi,

Welcome to *The Arc.ives* - a monthly newsletter with news of the Arc of Alameda County. This time we focus on a new program for Arc members - a Public Policy Forum. Details below. Plan now to attend!

Public Policy Forum

Tony Anderson, Executive Director of The Arc of California and Sacramento insider, is the headliner at the March 18, 2009 Public Policy Forum sponsored by the Arc of Alameda County. The meeting is set for 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18th. Arc Alameda County members and other stakeholders concerned about issues that impact people with developmental disabilities are invited. The meeting is free of charge and will be held at The Arc's San Leandro facility, 2700A Merced Street, San Leandro 94577. It's at the corner of Merced and Fairway, a long block south of Marina Blvd. West.

Anderson, a former direct support professional, will offer thoughts about the Lanterman Act in light of the recently adopted State Budget that severely cuts funds for the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). The Arc of Alameda County is funded through the Regional Center of the East Bay with money that comes from DDS.

The Lanterman Act, passed in 1969, guarantees that people with developmental and intellectual disabilities will receive the services they need.

Bob Perotti and Ron Luter, President of the Board and Executive Director respectively of Arc Alameda will discuss the State of the Agency in light of a 3 percent cut in funding that was mandated in January of this year and will continue into the next fiscal year; plus an additional approximately 7% cut that begins in July (fiscal year 2009/10).

The Forum also features Leslie Morrison, an investigator for Disability



Donations

Why not send a check to The Arc of Alameda County, 2700A Merced St., San Leandro, CA 94577. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We'll send you a receipt.

Become a member of the Arc of Alameda County. The more people on the membership roster, the stronger our voice! Get details on our web site.

Attend the Public Policy Form on the 18th to learn about and sign-up for the 20/20 Campaign.

Tell us if you know people at businesses in the area. We'd be happy to contact them to see if they would be interested in helping with a donation. Or maybe they have packaging or other work that can be done by the people we serve.

Member of Rotary, Soroptimist or other service club? Get us on the list to do a presentation. We love to tell our story!

Rights California. Ms. Morrison's research indicates that people with a disability are 4-10 times more likely to be crime victims. In fact, statistics indicate that 80% of women and 40% of men with a disability have been the victims of sexual abuse during their lifetimes. She will share additional information and discuss legislation to alleviate the problem.

The complete agenda may be found below. This is a forum you don't want to miss! Mark your calendars now.

Biography - Tony Anderson

Tony Anderson entered the field of developmental services in 1987 and began his career as a direct support professional in group homes, respite and in home support services, schools and work-related programs. He has served as a case manager and resource development manager in a regional center, and was the Executive Director of a residential service agency that served over 120 people with developmental disabilities. He served as a manager for the Napa County Department of Health and Human Services and was appointed to serve as Deputy Director for Governor Gray Davis responsible for Policy, Planning & Governmental Relations for the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities. He joined Arc California shortly after that; serving as Executive Director and principle lobbyist. Tony received his BA in Research Psychology and an MA in Organizational Development both from Sonoma State University. He completed Executive Training from the University of Southern California while an official of the State.



DDS Hearing

Hundreds of people, concerned about the impacts of the new State Budget on people with Developmental Disabilities, turned out for a special "Stakeholder Meeting" in Oakland on February 27th called by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).



"I was very pleased with the turnout of folks from The Arc of Alameda County," said Executive Director Ron Luter. "Our message was delivered loud and clear: cut bureaucracy, not programs - keep the cuts as far away from the people we serve as possible."

One consumer who addressed the panel was Union City consumer and Arc Alameda Board member, Aldo Bertesconi (seen at the mic in the photo). Aldo expressed fear that he would lose the job he loves and urged DDS not to cut programs.

In all, 580 people were at the hearing with another 50 on a conference all telephone line.

In cutting \$100 million from the DDS budget in fiscal year 2009/10, the Legislature asked the Department to determine where to make the cuts. DDS Officials decided to ask the organizations affected, so it held a series of meetings around the state. No word on when DDS will make a decision - best guess is early May.

This Public Policy Forum is the first presented by the Arc of Alameda County. We know you will find it valuable and we intend to have similar sessions - possibly every quarter. We want you to know - and participate in - public policy decisions impacting our organization and the people we serve. There is tremendous credibility when a parent or relative speaks at a legislative hearing. Legislators pay attention when constituents send an e-mail to express an opinion about a piece of legislation. We want you to understand the issues and help protect the rights of the people we serve. The first step is attending the Forum!

Sincerely,

Richard Fitzmaurice
The Arc of Alameda County

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM
For Arc Members and Concerned Stakeholders
Wednesday, March 18, 2009
Arc - San Leandro
2700A Merced Street, San Leandro (at Fairway)

Agenda

Opening Remarks/State of the Agency & New Directions for the Board of Directors

Bob Perotti, President of the Board, The Arc of Alameda County

Mr. Perotti will outline plans to reorganize and reenergize the Board in the wake of the new State budget.

The Operational Impact of a \$500K Shortfall.

Ron Luter, Executive Director, The Arc of Alameda County

Living with less won't be easy. Mr. Luter will outline the strategy.

California's new state budget will likely mean a loss of \$500,000 to the Agency - Mr. Luter will discuss the operational impacts

The State of the Lanterman Act In Light of the State Budget

Tony Anderson, Executive Director, The Arc of California

For 40 years, the Lanterman Act has guaranteed services for Californians with Developmental Disabilities. Is the \$100M shortfall in the Department of Developmental Services' budget a signal that lawmakers are waffling on their promise? Mr. Anderson shares his thoughts.

Introducing the Arc of Alameda County's new 20/20 Fundraising Campaign

Dick Fitzmaurice, Director Development and Public Information

The concept is simple: members and others sign-up to get \$20 from 20 people. The trick is getting lots of people to sign-up. Mr. Fitzmaurice will explain.

Crimes Against People with Developmental Disabilities

Leslie Morrison, Director - Investigations Unit, Disability Rights, California

People with disabilities are 4 - 10 times more likely to be victimized. Ms. Morrison will tell us more and describe a piece of legislation designed to help reverse the statistics.

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